

Proclamation 3977**SENIOR CITIZENS MONTH, 1970****By the President of the United States of America****A Proclamation**

It has become a national tradition to designate the month of May each year as a time to give recognition to the older members of our population.

This year Senior Citizens Month will have a special significance. It will mark the launching of activity leading to a White House Conference on Aging in 1971.

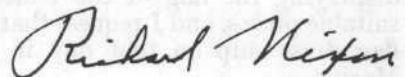
For too long we have lacked a national policy and commitment to provide adequate services and opportunities for older people. I have called the 1971 White House Conference to develop just such a policy. My Special Assistant for the Aging, who will direct the Conference, will devote the preparatory year of 1970 to encouraging all older people to speak out regarding their needs. I want to know also how they see themselves helping to meet these needs, and how they believe they can contribute to raising the quality of life for all Americans.

In meeting the challenge of our rapidly changing society, older Americans have gained invaluable experience. We ask them to draw on this fund of knowledge to create a better and more enriching life in the later years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the month of May 1970 as Senior Citizens Month. The theme for this month shall be OLDER AMERICANS SPEAK TO THE NATION—PROLOGUE TO THE 1971 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING.

I urge the Governors of all the States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officers of Federal, State, and local governments, voluntary organizations, and private groups to arrange during May for community forums or other appropriate meetings where older citizens may come together to express their views. And I urge all older Americans to take advantage of this opportunity in their home communities to make the first contribution toward a successful 1971 White House Conference on Aging.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-fourth.

**Proclamation 3978****PAN AMERICAN DAY AND PAN AMERICAN WEEK, 1970****By the President of the United States of America****A Proclamation**

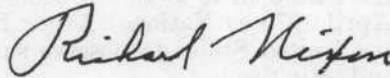
On April 14, the republics of the Western Hemisphere will mark the 80th anniversary of the inter-American system, the world's oldest regional grouping of nations. Today the Organization of American States, like its predecessors in former years, is working to create that spirit of mutual understanding in our Hemisphere which alone can preserve the peace and improve the life of its people.

April 9, 1970

Through the Organization of American States and its predecessors, the nations of our Hemisphere have learned a great deal about each other in these eight decades. Our cooperation with one another has increased—but so have the demands which history places on our shoulders. The 1970s must therefore be a decade in which we achieve an increasingly vigorous, mature and balanced partnership, one which allows us to seek ever greater adventures and to realize even greater goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, April 14, as Pan American Day, and the week beginning April 12 and ending April 18 as Pan American Week; and I call upon the Governors of the fifty States of the Union, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials of all other areas under the flag of the United States to issue similar proclamations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-fourth.



Proclamation 3979

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

By the President of the United States of America

April 17, 1970

A Proclamation

The imperiled flight and safe return of the crew of Apollo 13 were events that humbled and inspired people all over the world. We were humbled by the knowledge that in this stage of man's exploration of space, a safe splashdown of an imperiled mission is in its way as successful as a landing on and safe return from the Moon. We were inspired by the courage of the crew, the devotion and skill of the members of the NASA team on the ground and by the offers of assistance from nations around the world.

Particularly inspiring was the spontaneous outpouring of prayer, from every corner of the world, from members of every faith, calling upon God in His infinite mercy to bring home in safety to our small planet three fellow human beings.

Now James A. Lovell, Jr., Fred W. Haise, Jr., and John L. Swigert, Jr. are home again. The prayers of millions all over the world helped to bring them home safely. I urge my fellow Americans and all the peoples of the world to join with me in offering another prayer, one of deep thanks, for the safe return of the crew of Apollo 13.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Sunday, April 19, 1970, as a National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the one hundred ninety-fourth.

